United Nations A/72/302

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 August 2017
English
Original: Arabic/English/
French/Spanish

Seventy-second session
Item 100 (r) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament

Promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Replies received from Governments	2
	Argentina	2
	Brunei Darussalam	2
	Colombia	3
	Cuba	3
	Ecuador	4
	Iraq	4
	Madagascar	5
	Mexico	6
	Portugal	11
	Qatar	12
	Spain	13

* A/72/150.

17-13619 (E) 290817 300817

Please recycle

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 71/61 on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the issue of the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-second session.

2. Pursuant to that request, on 21 February 2017 a note verbale was sent to Member States inviting them to provide information on the subject, followed by a second note verbale dated 12 June 2017. The replies received are contained in section II below. Additional replies received after 31 July 2017 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs[1] in the language of submission.

II. Replies received from Governments

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[13 July 2017]

Argentina will spare no effort in working constructively and promoting the broadest possible consensus in order to achieve the ultimate goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. This is a priority goal of the country's foreign policy, grounded in its historic position in support of general and complete disarmament, in accordance with article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Argentina will continue to participate in all multilateral discussions, forums and negotiations pertaining to this goal with a view to eliminating nuclear weapons throughout the world in an irreversible, transparent and verifiable manner, and in the conviction that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the cornerstone of the international legal framework for non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

Brunei Darussalam

[Original: English]
[29 June 2017]

Being a small nation, Brunei Darussalam recognizes the importance of multilateralism to advocate its interests. Brunei Darussalam does not possess nuclear weapons and has no intention of producing or acquiring nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction, hence it is in Brunei Darussalam's interest to ensure that no such weapons exist and proliferate. In order to do this, Brunei Darussalam engages others to cooperate in order to hamper such threats.

On that note, Brunei Darussalam is an active proponent of supporting the various multilateral efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation. Brunei Darussalam is a signatory to most, if not all, the major regional and global instruments pertaining to disarmament and non-proliferation.

As the country focuses its efforts on ensuring transparency and confidence-building, it continues to call upon others to support such commitments. At the same time, Brunei Darussalam aligns itself to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations unequivocal support for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts at the regional and global levels.

[1] www.un.org/disarmament/.

Brunei Darussalam consistently supports the issues pertaining to the development of regional and international mechanisms to encourage disarmament and prevent the proliferation of arms ranging from small arms and light weapons to weapons of mass destruction. In addition, Brunei Darussalam is a signatory to various chemical, biological and nuclear weapons conventions, in particular the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[28 April 2017]

Colombia recognizes the importance of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and has worked to achieve consensus in the relevant multilateral forums, in order to advance towards the objectives that inspired the establishment of the United Nations, and which honour its purposes and principles.

Colombia has emphasized, in different forums, the importance of legal instruments and international institutions, reiterating the need to universalize the non-proliferation and disarmament regime, and highlighting the importance of these issues for international peace and security.

Colombia participates in the international forums on matters of global interest, such as the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, where it has highlighted the importance of building synergies and establishing complementary processes to bring together the existing institutional framework and the new discussions on this subject that have been developing.

For Colombia, it is vital that the international regime for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control is continuously strengthened, and for this reason Colombia is a party, or is in the process of becoming a party, to the main international instruments dedicated to that end.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[6 March 2017]

Multilateral negotiations that are open to all States on an equal footing guarantee and facilitate universality, as well as the commitment of States to the agreements, measures and instruments related to disarmament and non-proliferation.

The challenges of the current international environment reinforce the need for multilateralism. Existing disputes within the international system and the threats that may arise in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation must be resolved peacefully. Multilateral efforts must be renewed to break the impasse in the negotiations on the disarmament machinery, which has lasted for several years owing to the lack of political will on the part of certain countries.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, of which Cuba is a member, has reiterated that multilateralism is absolutely valid in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and has restated its determination to promote multilateralism as a core principle that should underpin negotiations on these matters, including on priority issues such as nuclear disarmament.

The goal of disarmament and arms control cannot be achieved through unilateral measures. Experience has shown that some States use alleged threats to national security to justify their promotion and implementation of unilateral

measures that jeopardize international peace and security, undermine multilateralism and multilateral agreements, and erode confidence in the international system and in the foundations of the United Nations itself.

As a State Member of the United Nations and a State party to numerous treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation, Cuba reaffirms its commitment to the promotion, preservation and strengthening of multilateralism.

Seeking agreements through multilateral negotiations is essential if collective solutions are to be adopted, and if the only effective long-term means of safeguarding international peace and security is to be found.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[31 July 2017]

Ecuador is particularly pleased that the Open-ended Working Group on the fourth special session of the General assembly devoted to disarmament was able to agree by consensus, in June 2017, on the recommendations relating to the objectives and agenda of that session, which clearly indicates that multilateralism can and should be the fundamental principle underpinning disarmament work. It also expresses its satisfaction that, in April 2017, after almost two decades of no agreement, the Disarmament Commission managed to agree on recommendations concerning one of the items on its agenda: confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

Ecuador considers that these actions and others taken by the General Assembly are very positive as they have reaffirmed, in an international environment marked by the unilateral actions of certain countries, the need to promote multilateralism as the principle mechanism for guaranteeing world peace and security.

As a defender and promoter of international law and the peaceful settlement of disputes, Ecuador supports all actions designed to prevent conflict and also supports the international instruments that will bring about the total elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, it is opposed to an arms race in outer space.

Ecuador believes that international meetings and summits on issues of universal concern, such as those related to nuclear security, should be open to all States on an equal footing, in line with the principle of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[10 April 2017]

Iraq supports multilateralism as the core principle for addressing disarmament and non-proliferation concerns and considers it to be an effective tool for achieving that aim. Disarmament and non-proliferation cannot be achieved in isolation. In terms of scope, unilateral measures and bilateral and regional agreements on disarmament and non-proliferation are no substitute for agreements concluded through multilateral negotiations. To that end, all States must make a concerted effort to respond to potential threats in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, particularly with regard to weapons of mass destruction. The Government of Iraq is firmly committed to the conventions, treaties and resolutions concerning disarmament and non-proliferation because it believes that the universality of the international conventions on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

should be achieved and that compliance with those conventions should be enforced in a non-discriminatory manner. The total elimination of such weapons is a pillar of global peace and stability and will provide the international community with a genuine guarantee that the use or threat of use of weapons of mass destruction will be contained.

The adoption by the General Assembly of resolutions on the promotion of multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation is an important step towards strengthening joint international action to unify disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. It is all the more important because the challenges facing the world require collective and effective measures to address threats to international peace and security, particularly given the spread of terrorist organizations and the fear that such organizations might gain access to materials that are used in the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

The views of the Government of Iraq on the core issues related to multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation can be summarized as follows:

- Nuclear disarmament should remain a top priority for the Conference on Disarmament. Any effort on the part of or negotiations between nuclear-weapon States aimed at bringing about a meaningful reduction in nuclear weapons that leads to a nuclear-weapon-free world should be encouraged, as should efforts to conclude a legally binding international instrument under which nuclear-weapon States provide non-nuclear-weapon States with unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. The means of making progress towards that goal should be specified.
- Actions and measures to achieve the universality of the international conventions and treaties on disarmament and non-proliferation should be supported and fostered, as should the multilateral approach that underlies the endeavours of international organizations to exhort all States to accede to the relevant international conventions and treaties and implement Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), as doing so would help prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and control the materials utilized in their manufacture.
- An international commitment must be made to pursue negotiations leading to the eradication and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction under strict and effective international control of the materials utilized in their manufacture.

Madagascar

[Original: French]
[7 July 2017]

The United Nations has emphasized the following points:

– It is important to preserve the existing agreements on arms regulation, which constitute an expression of the results of international cooperation and multilateral negotiations in response to challenges relating to international security;

– Multilateralism is the core principle in resolving disarmament and non-proliferation concerns.

Consideration of the international agreements and treaties already in force, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, could be a starting

point for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/61. Member States should renew their commitments to multilateral international cooperation.

All Member States should again be invited to participate in multilateral negotiations on this subject in a non-discriminatory and transparent manner. The negotiations should lead to the adoption of a convention that is accepted by all and addresses all aspects of disarmament and non-proliferation. Madagascar would participate actively in the negotiations.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[31 May 2017]

Mexico is a recognized and strong advocate of multilateralism. Mexico believes, in line with its foreign policy, that only through multilateral approaches and solutions is it possible to reach agreements and forge strategies to address the challenges in areas as diverse as international security, development policy, climate change, human rights and the progressive development of international law.

Consistent with its beliefs, Mexico advocates the building of a more peaceful and safer world, based on international law, cooperation and friendly relations among States, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and not on the false stability that conventional and nuclear stockpiles offer, according to outdated views held by some.

The promotion of multilateralism in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation has been one of the priorities of Mexican foreign policy since the very inception of the United Nations. Mexico is a country long known for its activism to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Mexico is aware of the devastating short- and long-term effects of a nuclear detonation on the population and the environment at the regional and global level.

Therefore, in accordance with the constitutional principles governing the conduct of its foreign policy and the 2014-2018 National Security Programme, published in the Official Gazette on 30 April 2014, Mexico will continue actively and decisively to promote initiatives in multilateral forums with a view to eliminating and prohibiting nuclear weapons, in order to maintain and sustain a world free of this scourge.

Accordingly, on various occasions in the past year, Mexico, along with other States, has promoted multilateral actions to bolster disarmament and non-proliferation, thus confirming the country's conviction that multilateralism is the way to foster cooperation and friendly relations among States and thereby to strengthen international peace and security.

The action taken by Mexico includes the following:

- In 2017, Mexico participated in the session of the Disarmament Commission which, after more than two decades with no agreement, brought forth a document containing recommendations on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons. It also participates in the sessions of the Conference on Disarmament, where the prevailing deadlock is expected to be broken soon.
- Mexico strongly promotes the full implementation and universality of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, because this key multilateral and legally binding instrument

contributes to the common goal of creating a peaceful and more secure world for present and future generations.

- Mexico participates actively in meetings of governmental experts and meetings of States parties, promoting cooperation and assistance among parties to build and strengthen national capacities and promote the sharing of knowledge, experience and scientific and technological progress, particularly among countries with different levels of development, to address and prevent outbreaks of infectious diseases, and to address possible attacks with biological agents.

- In this context, on 15 April 2017, on a voluntary basis Mexico submitted its national report on confidence-building measures for 2016, which is publicly available.

- At the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Mexico has reaffirmed its strong commitment to the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling and to the total elimination of chemical weapons. In addition, Mexico has reaffirmed its full commitment to cooperate fully to achieve effective multilateralism that will strengthen and contribute to the timely implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In 2016, Mexico engaged in multilateral efforts to further promote the complete destruction and the non-proliferation of chemical weapons, emphasizing in this regard the following:

(a) Mexico first assumed the chair of the twentieth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, held in November 2015, and passed the office to Germany during the twenty-first session of the Conference, held in November 2016.

(b) As a member of the OPCW Executive Council in the period covered by this report, Mexico participated actively in the eighty-second (July 2016), eighty-third (October 2016) and eighty-fourth (March 2017) sessions, and the fifty-second (July 2016) and fifty-third (April 2017) meetings of the Council, taking part in the various debates and votes related to the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and the alleged use of a nerve agent at the international airport in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, among other topics.

(c) Similarly, it monitors progress in the destruction of the remnants of the declared chemical stockpiles of Iraq, Libya, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

(d) Mexico participates constructively in the various informal consultation meetings of OPCW working groups and others, in order to contribute and provide timely follow-up to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. These include the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities and the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, as well as the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors, which discuss key aspects of the challenges and opportunities for the Organization in preparation for the fourth review conference to be held in 2018.

(e) To support the implementation of the Convention on Chemical Weapons, Mexico hosted the subregional exercise on response to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals, held in May 2016 in the city of Guadalajara, and is preparing to host a regional tabletop exercise for Latin America and the Caribbean on response to chemical emergencies, to be held in November 2017 in Mexico City.

(f) Mexican officials from various Government and academic institutions have also participated in various courses, workshops, conferences and meetings convened by OPCW. A Mexican professor, Benjamín Ruiz Loyola, is one of the 15 members of the recently established OPCW Advisory Board on Education and Outreach.

(g) Mexico frequently makes voluntary contributions to the OPCW Voluntary Fund for Assistance, to support implementation of article X of the Convention on Chemical Weapons on assistance and protection against chemical weapons, as one of the 14 countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region that has adopted legislation to comply with all the initial implementation measures set out in article VII of the Convention.

(h) In response to the chemical weapon incident that occurred on 4 April 2017 in the town of Khan Shaykhun in Idlib Governorate, in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Government of Mexico categorically and strongly condemned the use of chemical weapons, by any actor and under any circumstances, reiterating that their use is a flagrant violation of human rights, international law and international humanitarian law, as well as a war crime and an unacceptable act that threatens international peace and security. Mexico reiterated that position days later in a joint communiqué issued together with other Latin American countries to express deep concern over the escalating violence in Syria and to condemn in the strongest terms the inhumane use of chemical weapons against the civilian population.

- Mexico participates actively and constructively in the various multilateral and regional forums that deal with the issue of nuclear disarmament. In the context of the meetings of the First Committee, during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, held from 30 September to 2 November 2016, in its national capacity or endorsed by other countries, Mexico submitted, as a co-author or main sponsor, the following resolutions on disarmament:

(a) Resolution 71/27. Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco).

(b) Resolution 71/46. Humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

(c) Resolution 71/47. Humanitarian pledge for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

(d) Resolution 71/50. The Arms Trade Treaty.

(e) Resolution 71/54. Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments.

(f) Resolution 71/55. Ethical imperatives for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

(g) Resolution 71/57. United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

(h) Resolution 71/67. Nuclear disarmament verification.

(i) Resolution 71/74. United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

(j) Resolution 71/86. Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

(k) Resolution 71/258. Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations.

Of particular note is resolution 71/258, adopted with 113 votes in favour, 35 against and 13 abstentions, in which the General Assembly, implementing the recommendations of the Open-ended Working Group which met during 2016 in

Geneva, decided to convene a conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

Mexico participated in the first session of the Conference, which was held from 27 to 31 March 2017 in New York, fully convinced of the importance of achieving a ban on nuclear weapons after 21 years of stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament, during which negotiations to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons became deadlocked.

For Mexico, in the light of the purposes of the United Nations under Article 1 of its Charter, the negotiation of a treaty banning nuclear weapons is essential and is consistent with the obligation contained in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, thereby contributing to its implementation.

Mexico believes that a legally binding instrument banning nuclear weapons will not replace the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The timely implementation of both instruments shall be without prejudice to the framework of the other treaty; both instruments will be complementary, thus strengthening the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime.

Mexico believes the legally binding instrument to be negotiated must meet three clear objectives:

(1) The negotiation process must be expeditious and simple. We will give preference to any initiative leading to this goal and to avoid interfering with or generating distraction from the processes that also complement the non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament regime.

(2) The text of the treaty must be brief and clear, aimed at a central purpose: the prohibition of the use, acquisition, stockpiling, development, transfer or stationing or deployment of nuclear weapons, as well as the involvement and assistance of its States parties, or inducement to participate, in any activity prohibited by the treaty.

(3) The treaty must be inclusive and open to all States. The treaty must be open to both States parties and not party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to nuclear weapon States and States under the nuclear umbrella.

These considerations will guide Mexico in its participation of the second session of the negotiating Conference, which will take place from 15 June to 7 July 2017 in New York.

- In parallel, Mexico participated in the first preparatory committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was held in Vienna, from 2 to 12 May.

Mexico hopes that during the meetings of the preparatory committees that mark the start of the new review cycle of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, documents will be produced that could serve as a basis for the final document of the 2020 review conference. Mexico will also make every effort to ensure that there is a balance in the treatment given to the three pillars of the Treaty and that the process is transparent and inclusive.

- Mexico staunchly promotes the entry into force and universality of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Consequently, it has participated in the meetings of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

In that connection, together with Australia and New Zealand, and as it has done every year, Mexico introduced a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive

Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", which was adopted by a vote at the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

Moreover, Mexico has emphasized the need for all States to refrain from carrying out nuclear weapon tests, other nuclear explosions or any other related non-explosive test, including subcritical experiments and those carried out using supercomputers to improve nuclear weapons, in order to avoid violating the spirit of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

- In addition, Mexico promotes the objectives of non-proliferation through its active participation in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), both in the General Conference and the Board of Governors. It has served as an observer on the Board since September 2016.

With financial funds, contributions in kind, human resources, experience and best practices, Mexico strongly supports the consolidation and universality of the safeguards system of the Agency, with which it signed an additional protocol that entered into force in 2011. It also supports efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of safeguards and the verification of facilities and nuclear and radioactive materials through better integrated verification activities, continuously updated technologies and better and more extensive analysis of information from a variety of sources.

In the area of nuclear security, Mexico complies with the IAEA safety standards and the Agency's guidelines and recommendations in the field of security. Mexico also contributes to the expansion and deepening of such provisions through the ongoing participation of experts at meetings and publications of the relevant special committees.

Mexico actively participated in the IAEA Ministerial Conference held in Vienna in December 2016.

Mexico continues to train technical staff in nuclear security with IAEA support, through its support for the implementation of such international agreements as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendment, and the development of guidelines and advisory services for member States. In this connection, Mexico believes it is important to implement a comprehensive and holistic approach to the international nuclear security regime to cover nuclear material and facilities for both civilian and military purposes.

Similarly, as a contributor to the IAEA international database on the illicit trafficking in nuclear materials, Mexico cooperates fully with IAEA in the application of safeguards in its territory and maintains strict control over radioactive sources in the country.

- Mexico participates in the New Agenda Coalition; the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative and the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament Verification.

- Mexico also participated in the four Nuclear Security Summits held in Washington, D.C. (2010), Seoul (2012), The Hague, (Netherlands) (2014) and Washington, D.C. (2016), and is a member of the related Nuclear Security Contact Group established pursuant to the joint statement on sustaining action to strengthen global nuclear security submitted by the United States during the fourth Summit, the aim of which is to analyse and promote issues relating to nuclear security. In addition, Mexico participated in the preparations for the international conference to conduct a review of the progress made in the area of clearance, dilution, production and storage of highly enriched uranium, emanating from the joint statement on minimizing and eliminating the use of

highly enriched uranium, submitted by Norway, which requests States to submit a voluntary report and includes the commitment to hold an international conference to measure progress made on highly enriched uranium, scheduled for June 2018.

- Mexico attaches great importance to the strengthening of the regime established by Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) as well as its effective implementation. In that regard, Mexico has worked with a number of countries to support the implementation of that resolution in the region and participates in cooperation mechanisms involving both the public and private sectors such as the Wiesbaden process, for which Mexico will host a regional meeting in June 2017.

- Other actions undertaken by Mexico to promote multilateralism in disarmament and non-proliferation include its participation in the tenth anniversary of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in June 2016, and the third meeting of the Working Group on Chemical Safety of the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction in November 2016, both held in The Hague (Netherlands).

Portugal

[Original: English]
[27 July 2017]

Portugal believes that multilateralism is the most efficient way to attain the objective of peace and security maintenance at the international level, through disarmament and non-proliferation. On this issue, Portugal is party to the relevant treaties and other international and regional mechanisms regarding the prevention and elimination of threats represented by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Portugal also cooperates with international organizations that work in those areas.

Portugal is party to the following instruments and mechanisms: the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and its Protocols (including amendments), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendment.

Portugal also participates in the following export control regimes: the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Australia Group, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Zangger Committee and the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies.

Portugal has participated in outreach activities that aim to promote the universalization of the main treaties and other legal instruments regarding disarmament and non-proliferation, especially with the Portuguese-speaking

countries, through formal and informal contacts and initiatives such as seminars, workshops and meetings.

Following the efforts in the area of disarmament, at a multilateral level, Portugal was one of the first 50 States to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty, which is the first legal instrument on the matter of disarmament adopted by the United Nations in the past decade.

Concerning nuclear disarmament, Portugal recognizes the risk represented by countries that possess and seek to develop nuclear weapons, especially in regions that are politically and socially unstable, which represent a higher threat potential.

With reference to nuclear disarmament, Portugal defends the full implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, always considering the importance of the existence of confidence-building measures among nuclear and non-nuclear States.

Portugal also hopes that the Conference on Disarmament will adopt, as soon as possible, a programme of work supporting the negotiation of the treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. To that end, Portugal highlights the importance of the implementation of the 2010 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons action plan, in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and believes that the effective implementation of that action plan includes ending the stalemate of the Conference on Disarmament. Portugal also signed and ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and has proceeded with outreach activities regarding its universalization.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[31 May 2017]

- Qatar is firmly committed to promoting multilateralism in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, and considers it an important negotiating tool in achieving a range of goals. Qatar is a party to all the relevant conventions, namely the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and is an active participant in the Conference on Disarmament and the pertinent seminars and meetings. It is also one of those members of the Non-Aligned Movement that are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Qatar stresses that complete and comprehensive disarmament and non-proliferation are vital and inextricably linked.

- Qatar believes that it is very important to make progress towards universal, multilateral, non-discriminatory and transparent arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, with the aim of achieving comprehensive and complete disarmament under strict international supervision, thereby according international legitimacy to the relevant negotiations.

- Qatar calls for the development of disarmament and non-proliferation strategies and hopes that the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty will be successful. It also calls for the prompt entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

- Qatar emphasizes the need to promote the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.

Spain

[Original: Spanish]
[26 May 2017]

The twenty-first century has changed the collective perception of international security and its concept. The confluence of new actors, challenges and threats that exacerbate the uncertainty and complexity of our times has made security one of the priorities of the international community.

The European Union global strategy for foreign and security policy of 2016 identifies the fight against proliferation as being among its areas for regional cooperation in the Mediterranean, the Near East, the African continent and Latin America and the Caribbean. Similarly, the strategy reflects a concern for and an interest in advancing non-proliferation on the Korean peninsula.

The National Security Strategy to counter the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction establishes strategic approaches including effective multilateralism and active cooperation, particularly with States members of the European Union, allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and partners in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The National Defence Directive defines the current strategic landscape as being characterized by the presence of a hybrid threat combining conventional conflict with asymmetrical confrontations fostered by the existence of areas that are beyond the control of territorially sovereign States.

Cyberattacks, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the spread of armed or unarmed fanatical movements and groups, migrant and refugee flows, illegal trafficking in persons and the rise of radicalism are all emerging realities that require multilateral responses, political will and concerted action to contribute to outcomes conducive to peace and international stability.

In a globalized and interdependent world, security is a value and aspiration of States, institutions, regions, communities and, above all, of citizens. The lack of security in our times is ascribable not only to aggressor States but also to non-State actors, terrorists and other criminal organizations. The deterioration in security hampers the development of nations and peoples because violence denies people the right to progress. Security is essential for the exercise of freedom and for the advancement of human rights and democratic values.

In the area of proliferation, one of the main problems is precisely the existence of different treaties, agreements and control regimes and the need to coordinate actions and criteria, even though it is not always easy to do so. Although in principle all like-minded countries are parties to those treaties, agreements and regimes, and efforts to combat proliferation are an immediate and ever more important goal of the international community, the fact that not all States are parties to all of them, and that the criteria for admission and participation vary from one State to the next, creates problems that are sometimes difficult to resolve.

To this must be added the growing role of non-State actors that are causing instability in many of the countries to the south and east of the Mediterranean. These actors are not subject to the above-mentioned arms control regimes. To counter the growing threat they represent, an indispensable tool is non-proliferation, especially with regard to small arms and light weapons as well as weapons of mass destruction. In that regard, it should be noted that Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and its

comprehensive review process, led by Spain during its presidency of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), led to the adoption of Security Council resolution 2325 (2016), which strengthens the ability of the international community to address the threat of terrorists and other groups using weapons of mass destruction. This resolution reaffirms the need to continue strengthening cooperation between Governments and organizations to counter terrorist groups through increased information sharing, coordination and technical assistance. The relationship between the Security Council and international, regional and subregional organizations, and their coordination through the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), is thus closer.

The rapid development of new technologies and their widespread use entail a new paradigm in the area of non-proliferation and make it more complex as in the case, for example, of controls on intangible transfers of information and knowledge. This also applies to the development of new weapons systems such as remote weapons systems, of particular concern from a humanitarian perspective. To this end, States should multilaterally identify and take the measures needed to maintain effective controls on access to weapons and the related technologies, as well as to continue to guarantee compliance with the principles of the law of armed conflict when such weapons are used.

These observations lead us to the questions of how these challenges should be addressed, and what the necessary and most effective ways to address them are. A multidisciplinary strategy that encompasses the fields of intergovernmental cooperation, the development of joint monitoring and tracking tools, the exchange of information and the establishment of new controls or the revision of existing ones will undoubtedly be required. The scope of the strategy encompasses national defences, strengthened multilateral instruments and organizations, cooperation for development, the eradication of illicit trafficking, as well as a range of other issues.

We must provide effective solutions to combat international security risks. The most appropriate road map is a political and diplomatic agreement reflected in legally binding conventions on disarmament and arms control.

Spain is committed to the multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament system. It has signed all the international agreements that make up the legal and regulatory framework of the system, and maintains an active, ambitious and ongoing policy of defending their effectiveness, with the clear objective of ensuring that the major treaties have a universal scope. Similarly, Spain promotes the universality and full implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

Furthermore, Spain is highly involved in the promotion of peace processes and in revitalizing and bringing innovation to the multilateral system with a view to transforming it into an instrument for peace, stability, advancement and progress. This requires arms reduction and control, the promotion of support for the non-proliferation of weapons, and disarmament, as well as efforts to combat the inequalities of globalization, since this is the only way to come close to achieving the dream of a peace that ranges from security and intercultural coexistence to the balanced and sustainable development of the planet.

Accordingly, Spain is contributing to the effective implementation of treaties and conventions, mainly through the international and regional organizations to which it belongs, such as the United Nations, the European Union or OSCE, through a comprehensive contribution in the political, economic and technical spheres.

The existence of an effective multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation system based on effective compliance is key to the implementation of the obligations imposed on States. This multilateral approach not only increases the system's effectiveness, it gives it important legitimacy.

There is a need to strengthen the effectiveness of the international system through more cohesive instruments, greater political commitment and further legally binding agreements, thus maintaining the credibility of the system and preventing a weakening of the system by avoiding the emergence of initiatives with objectives that overlap with those of existing treaties and conventions, whose achievements are evident. Regulations should require the fulfilment of the obligations assumed by States and foster rigorous and transparent verification systems accepted by all States. The capacity for consensus should also be expanded in order to establish legal frameworks that lead to real progress in the areas of peace, security, cooperation and global progress.

As a global and European actor, Spain is strongly committed to reforming multilateralism, meaning that we should be more involved in updating international relations as well as their mechanisms and institutions.

A responsible non-proliferation and disarmament policy requires the promotion of an effective multilateral system by:

- Promoting the universalization, defence and strengthening of treaties, conventions, agreements and international regimes, while avoiding parallel initiatives that are independent of their review processes, since they would weaken those processes and call their effectiveness into question.
- Seeking comprehensive political solutions that prevent, deter or stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or conventional weapons.
- Integrating policy on non-proliferation and disarmament into general security policy.
- Considering the possibility of including "non-proliferation clauses" in bilateral and regional relations.
- Strengthening the role of the Security Council.
- Promoting the national implementation of international obligations.
- Improving the effectiveness of verification mechanisms through political, economic and technical support.
- Strengthening import and export control systems relating to defence and dual-use materials, as well as enlarging their membership.
- Strengthening control measures for intangible transfers of technology.
- Promoting international information exchange.
- Strengthening technical assistance among States and cooperation for development.
- Promoting legal and responsible trade in defence materials and dual-use technologies, and preventing illicit trafficking.
- Facilitating collaboration among Government agencies, non-governmental organizations and industries that share the same objective.

Only an effective multilateral system can successfully tackle the threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in combination with other phenomena such as international terrorism, transnational organized crime, failed States and regional conflicts.

The election of Spain as a non-permanent member of the Security Council, the principal organ entrusted under the Charter of the United Nations with primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, reflects the international community's recognition of the important role Spain plays in the world

and the country's commitment to multilateralism and to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.